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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/934,263	08/21/2001	Charles Beck	2539/102	6454

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EXAMINER

RIBAR, TRAVIS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

6

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1-p

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/934,263		BECK ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Travis B Ribar		1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-14,25 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-9, 25, and 26, drawn to a plastic product covered with a clear coating, classified in class 428, subclass 423.1.
 - II. Claims 10-14, drawn to a composition for in-mold coating and a kit comprising the composition, classified in class 528, subclass 44.
 - III. Claims 15-24, drawn to an in-mold coating method, classified in class 427, subclass 236.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as a paint and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions

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anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

3. Inventions I and III are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product can be made from by another and materially different process, such as multilayer lamination.

4. Inventions II and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require a polyol and an isocyanate to be the reactants. The subcombination has separate utility such as a paint.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Timothy Murphy on August 7, 2002 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group III, claims 15-24. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-14 and 25-26 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "...Class A ..." in claims 15 and 21 is a term that renders the claim indefinite. The term "...Class A..." is not defined by the claim, is not an art-recognized phrase, and the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining its meaning.

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One of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably appraised of the limitations of this claim.

Claims 16-20 and 22-24 are rejected due to their dependence from claims 15 and 21.

10. Regarding claims 20 and 24, it is unclear from the language of the claim what the composition of the resulting mixture will be, since the compositions of the two solutions that are combined to make the mixture are not disclosed. Hence, the claimed ratios do not describe any particular range of compositions. For the purposes of this examination, this claim will be presumed to mean that the two solutions are mixed such that one skilled in the art would obtain a solution with the correct stoichiometric ratio of reactants upon mixing the solutions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

12. Claims 15-16 and 19-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aizawa et al., as evidenced by Crast et al.

Aizawa et al. discloses an in-mold coating process (column 8, lines 31-61) that comprises all of the steps the applicant claims in claims 15-16 and 19-24. Tables 3 and 4 show the temperature of the mold during the curing process. The method meets claim 22 because the primer coating film in Aizawa et al. inherently acts as a barrier layer and the substrate is reinforced with glass or mineral fibers (column 7, lines 41-43). The examiner notes that even though Aizawa et al. does not explicitly disclose that the polyurethane coating compositions are made by mixing a polyol/solvent mixture with a polyisocyanate/solvent mixture before spraying, such a method is well known in the art to prepare a sprayable polyurethane-precursor coating (see Crast et al. column 2, lines 23-33).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aizawa et al. as evidenced by Crast et al. as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Matzinger et al.

Aizawa et al. discloses all of the aspects of claims 17 and 18 except the presence of the barrier layer. Matzinger et al. discloses a barrier web layer (column 4, lines 19-25) that acts as a protective coating for a substrate. Matzinger et al. also

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discloses that the materials that its invention includes are compatible with the invention in Aizawa et al. (column 5, line 33 to column 6, line 18).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the barrier layer in Matzinger et al. to the multilayer laminate structure in Aizawa et al. The motivation for doing so would be to provide additional protection for the substrate. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Matzinger et al. with Aizawa et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 17 and 18.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mohiuddin discloses an RIM molding process that relates to the applicant's invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis B Ribar whose telephone number is (703) 305-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (703) 308-2462. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Travis B Ribar
Examiner
Art Unit 1711

TBR
August 11, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan M. Nutter', written in a cursive style.

NATHAN M. NUTTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1711